

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of Examiner Gerald J. O'Connor, dated 28 March 2003.

Claims 1-3 and 14-23 are in the case, none being allowed.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to an embedded hyperlink at page 20, line 21.

Applicants have amended the appropriate paragraph to delete the hyperlink.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gardner et al. (US 5,758,327).

Gardner refers to a chart of accounts at column 5, line 60. It states that a catalog may also contain commodity structures and charts of accounts.

Applicants claims describe methods which go well beyond the teachings of Gardner to provide a method in which it becomes virtually impossible for the user to input invalid accounting information.

With respect to claims 1, 14, 15, 22, and 23, applicants have clarified these claims to specify that an interface with an external ledger system is provided in order to enable an administrator to derive an appropriate charts of accounts for a given company. All other claims currently in the case depend from these claims, and are similarly distinguished from Gardner. Further...

With respect to claims 2, 16, and 18, applicants claims extend processing out of the catalog realm completely, stating that both commodities and catalogs are searched. In applicants method, it is not necessary to have a catalog from which to order, therefore the claims recite a method for getting accurate accounting information to the ledger system without associating it to a catalog item.

With respect to claims 3, 17, and 19-21, the configuration

of the method is opened to an administrator. This administrator has the power to create a commodity code to be used in his company, define purchase types (such as expense or capital) that will be valid for this commodity code, and then associate valid ledger accounts, which were fed in as described in Claim 1 from the external ledger system, with these commodities.

The advantage of all this is that, even without a catalog item, a user (requisitioner) can order an item which he describes himself (applicants refer to these items as 'full-buyer' items because they require full involvement by a buyer) and still enter valid ledger accounts without having to know anything about how these accounts are used or set up. Thus, as previously stated, it becomes virtually impossible for the user (requisitioner) to input invalid accounting information.

Gardner provides no such facility, and applicants contend that it is beyond the skill of the ordinary practitioner to extend Gardner's teachings to achieve such.

Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 14-15 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-3 and 14-23.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation with applicant(s) attorney could possibly facilitate prosecution of the case, he may be reached at the number noted below.

Sincerely,

Jean-Paul Chollon, et al.

By


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